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Ashley Smith
Name (Print) Signature

**Expedited Procedure Requested
Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: COVARRUBIAS)
Application No.: 09/803,225)
Filed: March 9, 2001)

Group Art Unit: 1731
Examiner: Chin, Peter

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TC 1700

For: PAPERMAKING PULP INCLUDING RETENTION SYSTEM

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 14, 2003

Sir:

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated November 21, 2002, for which the Examiner has set a three-month period for response. A petition for a One-Month Extension of Time and the requisite fee are submitted herewith, thus making the response due on or before March 21, 2003.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 9 without disclaimer or prejudice of the subject matter set forth therein.

Please substitute the following amended claims for the pending claims with the same numbers in the above-identified application. (A version of the amended claims with markings to show the changes made is also attached.)

1. A method of making paper or paperboard comprising:

introducing fibrous cationic colloidal alumina microparticles to a papermaking pulp and introducing at least one polymer to said papermaking pulp, to form a treated pulp, said

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